Why do we need Patient Research Ambassadors?

Patient Research Ambassadors are a group of young people involved in research at Birmingham Children's Hospital. They have an interest and are willing to participate in research studies. By involving patients and public in research, it helps in communicating the message that we are building on the work we've done and that patients can be involved in shaping their own healthcare.

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network West Midlands (YPSG) has been involved in various research projects, including Patient Research Ambassadors. We have gained valuable experience from working on a wide range of studies and can provide real life examples that illustrate how a young person's perspective can totally change the design, delivery and contribute to the success of a study.

The group provides feedback through conversations and interactive discussion to a productive outcome. We aim to illustrate how children and young people can have an active and meaningful role in the research cycle in collaboration with R&D Departments of academic and NHS organisations.

Aims

- Support with dissemination of research
- Raise awareness of our group
- Prepare patient and public information leaflets and discussion around dissemination to lay people
- Collaborate with Research and Development Department
- Collaborate with Clinical Trials Units and other Research Professionals
- Share best practice with regards to how children and young people can have an active and meaningful role in the research cycle in collaboration with R&D Departments of academic and NHS organisations.

Conclusion

Since collaborating with the Research and Development Department, we have been involved in a number of different projects including: Patient Research Ambassadors, Children's Hospital, Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital. The collaboration has been highly beneficial for the group.

Some of us are patients, carers, or friends of patients. We now act as research advocates. As friends, we meet on a regular basis to discuss how we can help with research and the work we've done. We hope to continue working on this in the future.

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Background

The NIHR Clinical Research Network West Midlands (YPSG) was established in 2007 to support the delivery and dissemination of clinical research in the West Midlands. The network has a number of different projects, including Patient Research Ambassadors. We have experience in working on a wide range of studies and can provide real life examples that illustrate how a young person's perspective can totally change the design, delivery and contribute to the success of a study.